<u>Remarks</u>

Claims 1-23 and 25 are pending in this application and stand rejected.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC §103

Claims 1-6, 8-21, and 23, and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over USPN 6,671,756 issued to Thomas in view of USPN 6,304, 895.

Claim 1 is directed to a switching device that includes the following combination of elements:

1. a transmitter and a receiver operable to provide wireless communication between the switching device and a selected one of a plurality of available computing devices and between the switching device and a peripheral device;
2. a computer readable medium having instructions for:
    a. maintaining a list of the available computing devices;
    b. receiving a user communication selecting from among the list of available computing devices; and
    c. utilizing the transmitter and the receiver to establish a first wireless link between the peripheral device and the switching device and a second wireless link between the switching device and a computing device selected from the list of available computing devices;
3. a processor operable to execute the instructions.

The Examiner continues to mistakenly asserts that Thomas teaches the first element listed above. Citing Thomas, col. 2, lines 8-9, col. 7, line 42 through col. 8, line 33, and Fig. 8, the Examiner incorrectly asserts that Thomas teaches a transmitter and receiver that are operable to provide wireless communication between a switching device and a selected computing device.

Thomas mentions the use of wireless communications only once and that is in its background/summary section at col. 2, lines 1-14. In that particular passage, Thomas describes a KVM switchbox that provides access to a local user and a remote user. The remote user preferably communicates with the KVM switch box via a CAT5 cable. Alternatively, the KVM switchbox may

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employ a wireless connection between the remote user and the KVM switchbox.

This passage is taken from the background/summary and by itself provides very little insight as to what Thomas is actually describing. To get a true understanding, one must look at Thomas as a whole and take the time to delve into the Specification. The Examiner's attention is specifically drawn to col. 3, lines 37-52, col. 4, lines 8-16; col. 5, lines 10-35, and Figs. 1 and 2. Figs. 1 and 2 are reproduced below to help illustrate the Examiner's mistake.
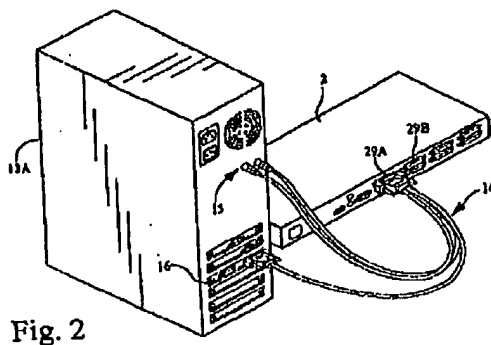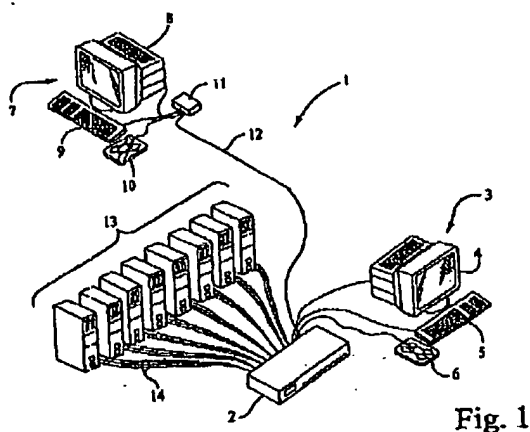

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 1 illustrates a distinction between a local user (3) and a remote user (7) of a KVM switch (2). The local user (2) has a monitor (4), keyboard (5), and pointing device (6) each directly connected to KVM switch (2). Thomas states that the local user (3) is to be located within 30 feet of KVM switch (2). The remote user (7) has monitor (8), keyboard (9), and pointing device (10) each

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directly connected to an extender product (11). That extender product (11) is then connected to KVM switch (2) via line (12). It is this line (12) that Thomas, at col. 2, lines 8-9, refers to when stating "the KVM switch can employ fibre optic, and integral waveguide, or wireless connection in lieu of the CAT5 connection."

As is evident from Fig. 2, Thomas never even suggests that a wireless connection be established between the KVM switch (2) and the computing devices (13). Instead as shown in Thomas Fig. 2, Thomas explicitly requires a physical cable (14) to connect the KVM switch (2) to a computing device (13A). Thomas describes that the cable 14 can have alternative ends for differing types of pointing devices, keyboards, and monitors. Thomas, col. 5, lines 20-35. A different cable 14 is used for each additional computing device (13) to KVM switch (2). The number of computing devices (13) that can be serviced by KVM switch (2) is limited by the number of physical ports available for cables (14).

Consequently, Thomas does not teach the first element of Claim 1 which recites "a transmitter and a receiver operable to provide wireless communication between the switching device and a selected one of a plurality of available computing devices."

The Examiner admits that Thomas fails to teach the second limitation. Specifically, the Examiner (mistakenly referring to Schneider) admits that Thomas "lack to especially recite a first wireless link between the peripheral device and the switching device and a second wireless link between the switching device and the computing device." More particularly, the Examiner admits that Thomas fails to teach a switching device that includes a computer readable medium having instructions for utilizing the transmitter and the receiver to establish a first wireless link between the peripheral device and the switching device and a second wireless link between the switching device and a computing device selected from the list of available computing devices.

For this deficiency the Examiner relies on Schneider. Schneider describes a switch (74) that is placed between a group of target devices (20a-20c) and a target controller (50). Schneider, Fig. 1A is reproduced below to help illustrate.
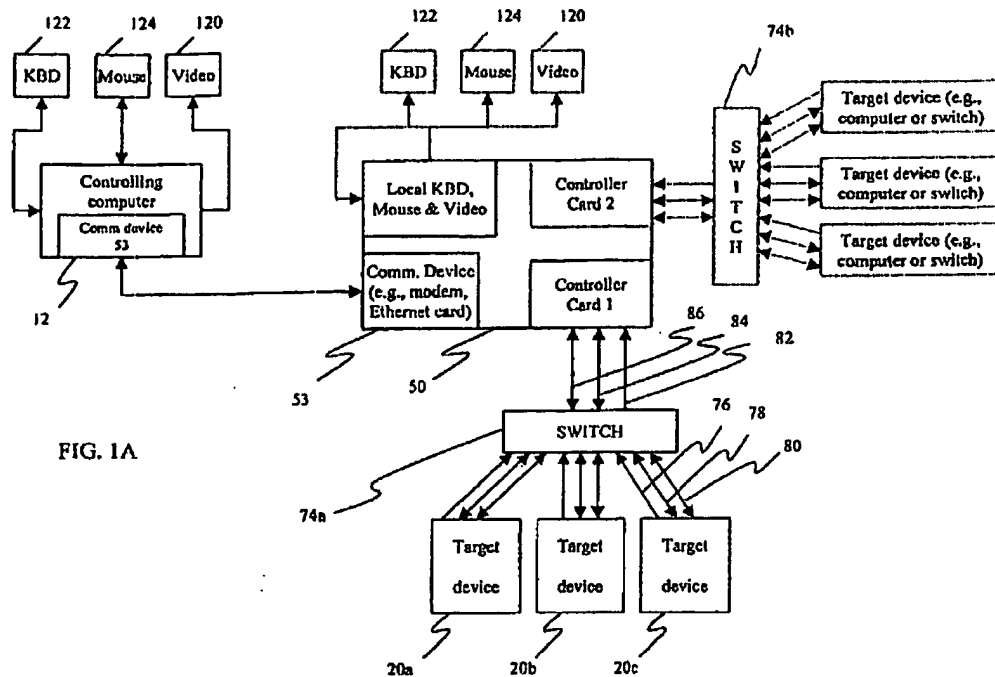
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FIG. 1A

Communication between the switch (74a) and each target device 20a-20c is accomplished with lines 76, 78, and 80. Schneider does not describe these lines in its Specification. However, from appearances lines 78 and 80 represent separate bidirectional communication paths for passing keyboard and pointing device communication for keyboard (122) and mouse (124). Line 76 is one directional targeted away from target devices (20a-20c) and could be used for passing video data for video (120). Schneider does mention that lines 82-86 may be wireless and that the link between controlling computer (12) and target controller (50) may be wireless. Schneider makes absolutely no mention that lines 76-80 are accomplished wirelessly. Consequently, it can be accurately presumed that lines 76-80 are not wireless.

Therefore, Schneider does not teach the ability to establish a second wireless link between the switching device and the computing device are recited by Claim 1.

For at least these reasons Claim 1 is patentable over Thomas and Schneider as are Claims 2-9 which depend from Claim 1.

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Claim 10 is directed to a computing system and recites the following combination of elements:

1. multiple computing devices, each of which being configured for wireless communication;

2. one or more peripheral devices configured to wirelessly receive and/or transmit data; and

3. a switching device configured to:

    a. maintain a list of available computing devices from among the multiple computing devices;

    b. receive a user communication selecting from among the list of available computing devices; and

    c. establish a first wireless link between the peripheral device and the switching device and a second wireless link between the switching device and a computing device selected from the list of available computing devices enabling wireless user interaction.

As with Claim 1, Thomas and Schneider, individually and combined, do not teach or suggest a switching device configured to establish a second wireless link between the switching device and a computing device selected from the list of available computing devices enabling wireless user interaction. Specifically Thomas' switch (2) requires a physical cable (14) for such a connection. As does Schneider.

For at least these reasons, Claim 10 is patentable over Thomas and Schneider as are Claims 11-15 which depend from Claim 10.

Claim 16 is directed to a computing system and recites the following elements:

1. multiple computing devices, each of which being configured for wireless communication;

2. one or more peripheral devices configured to wirelessly receive and/or transmit data and linkable with the computing devices for data exchange; and

3. a switching device configured to

    a. wirelessly receive and transmit data from and to the peripherals and

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the computing devices

b. maintain a list of available computing devices from among the multiple computing devices;

c. receive a user communication selecting from among the list of available computing devices; and

d. establish a first wireless link between the one or more peripheral devices and the switching device and a second wireless link between the switching device and a computing device selected from the list of available computing devices enabling user interaction with the computing devices.

Again, Thomas and Schneider, individually and combined, do not teach or suggest ed to establish a second wireless link between itself and a computing device selected from the list of available computing devices. For at least this reason Claim 16 is patentable over Thomas and Schneider as are Claims 17-20 which depend from Claim 16.

Claim 21 is directed to a method of controlling multiple computing devices utilizing a switching device and recites the following acts:

1. establishing a first wireless link with a peripheral device;

2. maintaining a list of available computing devices;

3. receiving data from a user, the data being associated with a user selection of an available computing device from the list;

4. using the received data to select a computing device;

5. establishing a second wireless link with the selected computing device; and

6. permitting the user to interact with the selected computing device via said first and second wireless links.

As made clear above, Thomas and Schneider fail to teach a method in which a second wireless link is established with a selected computing device so that a user is permitted to interact with the selected computing device via first and second wireless links.

For at least these reasons, Claim 21 is patentable over Thomas and Schneider as are Claims 22-23 which depend from Claim 21

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Claim 25 is directed to one or more readable media having instructions thereon which, when executed by a switching device, cause the switching device to implement the method of Claim 21. For the same reasons Claim 21 is patentable, so is Claim 25.

CLAIMS REJECTIONS – 35 USC §103

The Examiner rejected Claims 7 and 22 under §103 citing Thomas in view of Schneider and in further view of USPN 6,664,949 issued to Amro. Claim 7 depends from Claim 1 and Claim 22 depends from Claim 21. For the same reasons Claim 1 and 22 distinguish over Thomas, Claims 7 and 22 distinguish over Thomas, Schneider, and Amro.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-23 and 25 define allowable subject matter. The Examiner is requested to indicate the allowability of all claims in the application and to pass the application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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